

REMARKS

The claims are amended hereinabove in connection with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed simultaneously herewith.

In the Office Action dated May 13, 2005, claims 18-20 and 47-62 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to an invention independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. The Office Action indicated that the invention previously claimed a composition comprising thrombin, water-soluble organic acid and calcium ion, whereas the claims presented in the Amendment filed on February 28, 2005, recite a composition comprising thrombin, water-soluble organic acid and a surfactant. The Examiner stated that the removal of calcium ion and the addition of the surfactant changed the components of the product making it a different composition.

In this Amendment, claims 1-46, 48, 50-54, 56 and 58-62 are canceled. Independent claim 47 is amended to recite a thrombin containing composition comprising thrombin, calcium ion, water-soluble organic acid and nonionic surfactant, and independent claim 55 is amended to recite a reagent for measurement of fibrinogen concentration comprising thrombin, calcium ion, water-soluble organic acid and nonionic surfactant. Therefore, the present claims are commensurate in scope with the originally elected invention. Claim 47 is further amended to correct a minor typographical error. Support for the amendment is found, for example, in the specification, at page 5, line 13 to page 8, line 8. No new matter is presented.

Applicants submit that the present claims are distinguished over the art of record.


AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
U.S. Application No. 10/089,185

ATTY. DCKT. NO. Q69090

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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